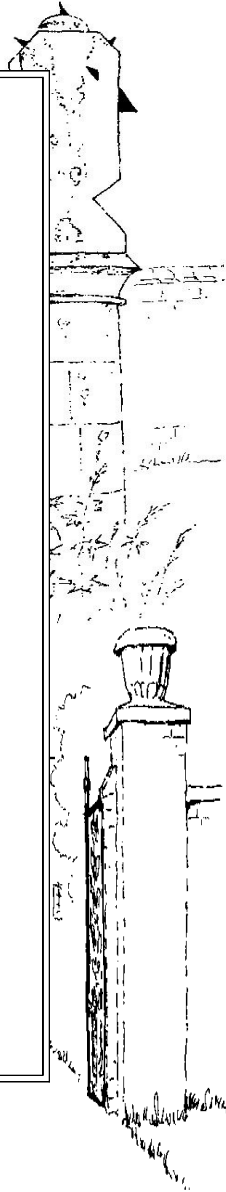
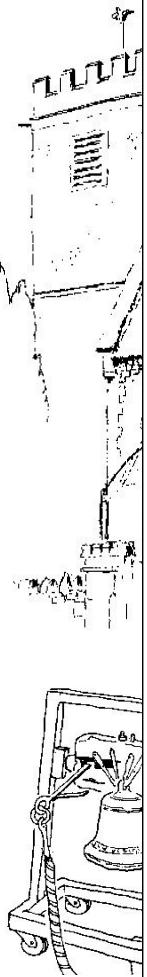


The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 335

Village Diary – April 2012

- 1st Family Service, St Paul's Church, 10 am followed by ...
Annual Church Parochial Meeting, 11.30 am*
- 8th Easter Day Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 9th Parish Council Meeting – The School, 7.30 pm*
- 11th Police 'Have Your Say' Meeting, by the School, 6.00 – 6.30 pm*
- 13th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR MAY'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 15th Evening Prayer - St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 27th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*



CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES IN CULHAM			
Palm Sunday, 1st	10 am	Culham	Family Service
	11.30 am	...	Annual Church Meeting
Easter Sunday, 8th	10 am	...	Easter Communion
Sunday 15th	6 pm	...	Evening Prayer
<p><i>Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i></p> <p><i>Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.</i></p>			
SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Palm Sunday, 1st	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Good Friday, 6th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	11 am	Clifton Hampden	Devotion
Easter Sunday, 8th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 10th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 15th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Dorchester Abbey	Team Communion

Village News

Extra Church Service & Annual Meeting - April 1st

There will be a short 'Family Service' (without communion) on **Palm Sunday, 1st April at 10 am** followed by the **Annual Church Meeting** at **11:30 am**. This is a **very important meeting** as all the expenses needed to keep our village church in good repair are borne by the village, *not by the Church of England*. Do come along, as this is your opportunity to put forward your ideas for the future of our church in Culham. Everyone is welcome!

Church Flower Arranging & Cleaning Rotas – Ingrid Reichardt & Janet Bracher

We have lost track of the whereabouts of this year's cleaning rota. If you have or have seen it recently could you please let one of us know on Ab. 520534 or 525885?

LoC Meeting – Mary Rickford

On Friday 20th April we will be holding a "Desert Island Disks" evening – venue TBC. Please start thinking about just one piece of music, and one luxury that you would take on a desert island, and come along prepared to share your choice.

New Sub-Post Office in Sutton Courtenay

Mr Patel of Burgrey Stores at 120 High Street has opened a sub-Post Office with effect from 26th March: we hope you will find it convenient!

Music at the Railway Inn in April

7th, The Headington Hillbillies: 14th, Riff Raff: 21st, Juke Blues

Three day music event in May: Friday 4th (8 pm-12 pm), Saturday 5th (12 noon – 12 midnight) and Sunday 6th (12 noon - 10.30 pm). **This is a charity event, all live bands.**

Annual Plant Sale & Village Fete – Culham PCC

This is planned for **Saturday 19th May** at the church from **1.30 pm to 4 pm**.

We are very short of helpers this year. If you can help in any way, please let us know, otherwise we may have to cancel this event. More details in May's Mouthpiece.

Culham Pre-School - Lea Allmond

This term the children have been enjoying a lot of outdoor play in the unexpected nice weather. They have been looking at their favourite books and doing crafts following this theme. We have enjoyed doing a 'sponsored bounce' raising money for materials and equipment. We have also enjoyed an Easter Bonnet Parade and an Easter Picnic with an egg hunt.

We have 2 new pupils joining us this term Tallulah and Jordan, we hope they enjoy their time with us. We shall sadly say goodbye to Alfie and wish him well in his new setting.

Has anyone got any old decorating brushes, or old pots and pans, spoons (wooden/metal etc) that they no longer need? We are looking for these for some of our creative activities. If you could pop them into us or give us a call on 01235 530010 we can come and collect them.

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes - March 2012

Update from SODC (John Cotton)

There are continuing negotiations with the European School concerning the removal of the fence along their boundary. The SODC council tax precept is being **reduced** this year by 2.5%, thanks to a subsidy from UK Government.

Other news

Various reports to SODC relating to rubbish having been left around the village have resulted in the removal of the rubbish.

CPC will pay for a speed logging project in the area of the Waggon and Horses on the A415, to produce data / evidence of speeding. It will cover a 7 day period over 24 hours each day.

A second supplier of material to stabilise the burial ground slope will be investigated prior to purchase.

In conjunction with the Diocese, CPC is to investigate the costs of repairing the fence and stile across the playing field.

The provision of a toilet in the playing field shed is being investigated.

Parish Plan / Community Building

A meeting to discuss the creation of a Parish Plan will be held **on 27 March at 19:30** in the **Waggon and Horses** pub. Please come along to contribute to the debate about the content and form of the plan.

Next meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **16 April 2012 at 19:30 at the school** (to be followed by a brief CPC meeting if necessary).

Annual meeting of the Parish Council - Monday 14 May 2012 at 19:30 at the school.

Culham Parochial School - Caroline Evans

Lights, camera . . . action!! Our whole school theme for this term is Hollywood! FS/KS1 are studying traditional tales 'with a twist' whilst KS2 are making a film version of Titanic to tie in with the centenary. KS2 have also been script and characterisation writing through diary entry. Art work throughout the school has taken the form of movie star portraits. To celebrate the end of our topic KS2 will premiere their Titanic film and enjoy an awards evening – Hollywood style!

KS2 children are taking part in the ADSMA (Abingdon District Schools' Music Association) Spring concert due to be held at Radley College on 27 March (please contact the school office for further details – 01235 521766).

On Shrove Tuesday the school opened its doors early for all to enjoy a Big Pancake Breakfast! Pupils, parents, siblings and staff were amongst many who enjoyed filling and eating delicious pancakes. Thank you to all who attended and contributed donations.

We celebrated World Book Day on 1st March by dressing up as traditional fairy tale characters. We also launched our sponsored 'readathon' on this day and welcomed parents and visitors to share books with the children.

Talking Point – Revd. Anne Ilsley

In the news on Thursday 5th April we will almost certainly have an item on the distribution of Maundy Money by the Queen, one coin for each year of her reign. On that same day a number of us will go to Dorchester Abbey to a special Team Service - a service with a meal, which we take part in as a way of remembering and entering into The Last Supper. In particular we remember Jesus' action of washing his disciples' feet. In this symbolic action he teaches us to be those who serve. Essentially Queen Elizabeth uses a less messy means to symbolise her own particular service to the nation.

The Maundy Thursday meal has long had special meaning for me, but the next day the mood changes as we move with Jesus into the garden of Gethsemane and to his dying on the cross. We must go through this dark day, Good Friday, in order to experience the empty cross, the sign of resurrection and the celebration of Easter Sunday.

In a recent survey commissioned by The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science the self description of respondents to the census as being Christians was questioned. The Foundation seeks to argue against the importance of religious faith in British society. I know that many people who have religious beliefs or for whom spirituality is important are not regular churchgoers. But it is far from true to suggest that the small number who attend church on a regular basis are the militant fringe in opposition to the militant Atheists.

Rather we are a mixed group of people who want to follow the values of Christ. Easter Sunday is so important to us because our faith goes beyond values and a guide for good living. Our faith is

in God's rescue mission through Jesus' death and resurrection, the resurrection being the sign that it is done. Meanwhile many of us have much in common with Thomas – doubting Thomas - who couldn't believe the reports of his friends that Jesus was alive. Thomas needed to touch and see. Entering into the journey from the false dawn of Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to Easter morning is one way in which we draw near to Him and receive assurance that, while faith is not based on science neither is it against reason.

We would love to see you at any and all of our Holy Week services.

Easter greetings and Blessings to you all.

Local Police – Rebekah Kent

'Have Your Say' meetings. Our nearest meetings for April are:

Wednesday 11th April - outside the **Primary School in Culham** from 1800 to 1830 hrs, & **Friday 27th April 2012** - Benson Riverside, A4074, Benson – 1800 - 1830

Vehicle Theft Our current Local Priority in this area is theft of, and from, vehicles. We are trying to reduce the amount of thefts from vehicles by our 'Clear Car Campaign' where we will write to the registered owners of vehicles displaying items such as sat-navs to inform them of the importance of putting such items out of sight. Please make sure that your vehicles are left secure and all items removed from the window to help to prevent your vehicle being broken into.

Bicycles We have had several bikes handed into us at Wallingford Police Station, if you have lost a bike and have an accurate description of it please call us or pop into the station so we can reunite them with their owners.

Traffic Operation Clifton Hampden On 2nd February a team of Police Officers, PCSO's and Traffic officers carried out an operation in Clifton Hampden around the traffic lights. Mainly, we looked out for drivers on their mobile phones, drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts and vehicles jumping the red lights. We had a productive morning! All in all there was only one red light offence: the driver was issued with a £60 endorsable fixed penalty notice. We also dealt with 30 seatbelt offences and 12 mobile phone offences.

Please note that our Neighbourhood Specialist Officer is now PC Matthew Herbert, not Paul Webber as before.

County Council Report - Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Major change ahead in Oxfordshire's education system

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet has agreed that the council should formally support changes proposed by national Government to improve educational standards across the UK and work on ways to help schools manage the change. The cabinet has endorsed the Government's national drive to develop the Academy programme nationally and bring fresh focus on the ways in which underperforming schools are supported to improve as well as encouraging good and outstanding schools to achieve academy status. The Government wishes to see increased autonomy from local education authorities for all schools - with Academies being supplemented by a network of free schools and greater accountability for underperforming schools alongside the Academies programme.

Standards in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire's recent GCSE exam results slipped below the national average for the first time in 2011 and standards at Key Stage One were below standard, particularly in the city of Oxford. The council is launching a campaign to improve standards with an *Every Child a Reader* campaign in

primary schools and improvements in school leadership. The council set aside extra money when it recently set its 2012/13 budget for these purposes. The council views structural change as another key method of changing the culture in Oxfordshire and bringing about a wholesale improvement in standards. However it does want to help schools manage this process in a planned way – putting in place solutions that make sure no school or pupil is disadvantaged by an unplanned, ad-hoc or piecemeal process.

How will the council will the council work with schools to manage the change?

- The council will commission an outside organisation to produce a comprehensive report on the process by which schools convert to academy status.
- This process will assist in setting out options for the establishment of multi-academy or umbrella trusts across the county
- It would identify issues that might arise if changes happen in an unplanned way.
- The contracted organisation would work with the council to engage with schools to seek view and identify and report back on innovative solutions that are already being considered by groups of schools elsewhere in the UK.
- The council will establish an advisory board comprising leading educationalists and community leaders, brought together by the council, to help deliver the change which is sought.

The council will work closely in partnership with the Diocese of Oxford and the two Roman Catholic Dioceses to manage change.

The current picture in Oxfordshire

- Almost 40% of all secondary schools are currently expressing an interest with the Department for Education in becoming an academy.
- Two further schools have already converted as academies – King Alfred’s School and Wallingford School
- There are three existing sponsored academies – North Oxfordshire Academy, Oxford Academy and Oxford Spires Academy.
- The Department for Education has started discussions with three primary schools who do not meet basic national minimum targets – Berinsfield, Windale and John Henry Newman Schools.
- Conversions to academy status are in train at Gillotts School, Hanwell Fields Community School, Rush Common Primary School, Bartholomew School, Langtree School, Chipping Norton School, Henry Box School, Burford School, The Cherwell School, Cutteslowe Primary School, Banbury School and Dashwood Primary School.

If all applications are successful and sponsors are found for under-performing schools it is possible that more than half of Oxfordshire’s secondary schools and 10% of all schools will be academies by the end of the year.

ORCC Community Action Introductory Course - Beth Weston

Want to learn how to change things in your community?

There’s a free* Introduction to Community Action course to help you:

- understand how you can affect decisions about where you live
- boost your confidence
- make changes in your neighbourhood
- earn an NVQ Level 1 qualification

**A £10 deposit is required, refundable at the end of the course*

You don’t need any previous qualifications or experience to get on this course. It covers:

- Understanding your community
- Different groups and needs
- Who makes the decisions
- Taking part in meetings
- Communicating with others
- Where to get help
- Support to work on your own ideas for community action

It will be held in Oxford starting in May 2012: it will involve one 3-hour session a week for 7 weeks and a tutorial. We'll pay your travel expenses to get to the course venue and any child or other care costs while you are there. Contact us for a chat to see if this is the right course for you by ringing **Beth Weston** on 01865 883488 or emailing beth.weston@oxonrcc.org.uk. Visit www.ocva.org.uk/community-action for more information.

Newington Nurseries: Dog, Tooth and Violet - Anne Hendry

One of the most beautiful spring-flowering bulbs is the Dog's Tooth Violet (*Erythronium dens-canis*). Not a violet in fact but a lily. The dainty purple flowers droop from arching stems above mottled foliage. The petals are curious in habit in that they curl back towards the stem so giving the impression of a turban. In the USA, Dog Tooth Violets are also known as Fawn Lilies as the leaf markings resemble the coats of young deer. There is also the less enchanting name of Trout Lily as some consider the patterns on the leaves to resemble the scales of trout.

'Erythros' comes from the Greek language and translates as red, referring in this instance to the purple-red of the flower. 'Dens' and 'canis' are Latin in origin, meaning tooth and dog or canine respectively. The shape and colour of the bulb in fact resemble a dog's tooth. Unlike most other bulbs, *Erythronium* bulbs are not protected by an outer membrane so do not retain moisture for any length of time. Consequently, they must be planted quickly so as to avoid water loss.

There are around 20 species of *Erythronium*, North America having the greatest number whilst Europe has only the one species (*E. dens-canis*) and Asia just two. All are classified as either woodland or alpine plants. Those that grow in wooded areas have mottled foliage and flower in the spring whereas the alpine varieties produce bright green leaves and bloom in the summer.

Cultivars of *E. dens-canis* to look out for are *E. d-c* 'Rose Queen', a lovely, early-flowering plant that produces offsets fairly quickly, and *E. d-c* 'Snowflake' which multiplies at a slightly slower rate. The American cousins that do well in British gardens are *E. californicum* 'White Beauty', considered to be one of the best white hybrids. It's vigorous and freely produces offsets which in turn form generous and eye-catching clumps. *E.* 'Harvington Snowgoose' is similar but taller and produces heavily-mottled foliage.

Also look for *E.* 'Pagoda', a large and easy plant with tall stems producing sulphur yellow flowers mid-spring and *E. revolutum*, a graceful species from the mountains of California that produces rosy-pink flowers above heavily mottled bronze and green foliage.

Erythroniums like to be planted in light, well-drained yet slightly moist soil in a shady position, ideally in a woodland environment. If that isn't possible, they can be planted under shrubs or trees. Plant bulbs between August and October; get them into the ground as quickly as possible as they do not like to dry out. Nor do they like to be divided, so ensure that they are planted where you intend them to stay. Between six and eight months later, you should be treated to a fantastic display of elegant and charming blooms or 'little turbans'.

Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton (on the A329), OX10 7AW Tel 01865 400533 - www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

The Waggon and Horses – Hamish Forsyth

As you are no doubt all aware, the Waggon and Horses re-opened in December 2011. The pub is no longer a Thai restaurant but has been restored to its proper position as a British Public House: the Menu consists largely of traditional English food such as Fish and Chips, Burgers, steaks and a few dishes with a South African flare.

The pub is now open 7 days a week, Monday to Saturday 1100-2300 and Sunday 1200-2230. Food is served Monday to Friday 1100-1500 and 1800-2100, Saturday 1100 – 2100 and Sunday Carvery from 1200 – 1900.

As a community pub, I believe that we must get involved in the community and help where it is required. We believe that charity is at the heart of everything good, and this year we will be supporting the 'Amber Phillpott Trust', a small Abingdon-based charity that desperately needs our help. In the near future we will be aiming our targets a little closer to Culham by organising a BBQ in aid of Culham School. We'd also like to start some community activities such as Cribbage, Pool, men's and ladies' darts and Aunt Sally. If you're interested in any of these, then please let our staff have your details.

In the summer we will be putting out more chairs and tables, and the children's climbing frame will ensure that all have a good relaxing summer in our garden. Do feel free to pop in for either a meal of just a drink and a chat. We would be most happy to meet you.

There will be many events through the year, starting with our **Beer Festival** on the **5th, 6th and 7th May**.

Future events include:

- 8th April: Easter Egg Hunt
- 28th April: 'Nameless' (live music)
- 5th-7th May: Beer and music festival
- 26th May: 'Back 2 Back' (live music)

Abingdon Road, Culham, OX14 3BW Tel 01235 525012

email: bookings@waggonhorsesculham.com web: www.waggonhorsesculham.com

Endpiece

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors. We accept information from advertisers in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

Contributions to the MAY issue of The Mouthpiece by APRIL 15th please, to:

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